COMMUNITY IMPACT

Hispanic celebration set today

■ Area Hispanic businesses revive the migrant fiesta from 2 to 6 p.m. today with music, prizes, games and food.

By Chris Gautz
Daily Telegram Staff Writer

ADRIAN — For the first time in almost 15 years, area Hispanic businesses are planning a celebration to make the community more aware of the impact migrants have on the local economy and culture.

The migrant fiesta will take place from 2 to 6 p.m. today at Dos Hermanos Market, on the corner of State and Beecher streets.

There will be music, prizes, food, games for the children and moonwalks.

Charlie Ojeda, one of several organizing committee members, said in the past, members of Adrian's Hispanic community planned the festival, but recently Hispanic business leaders decided to bring it back.

More than 30 Hispanic businesses in Adrian are sponsoring the fiesta, that was the idea of the owners of Dos Hermanos market

"They decided an awareness had to be made," Ojeda said. "The migrants really have a big impact on our community."

Ojeda said the migrants leave about 60 percent of their income in the county, and organizers decided they wanted to thank them for their commitment.

"I think the community should know the impact they have," Ojeda said.

Special recognition will be given at the fiesta to the three oldest Hispanic business in Adrian, Sotelo's Super Mercado & Grocery, the Grasshopper and Sunnyside Cafe.

"We're going to be thanking them for blazing a trail," he said.

Ojeda said he expects anywhere from 400 to 600 people to attend today.

Sen. Cameron Brown, R-Fawn River Twp., Rep. Dudley Spade, D-Tipton, Adrian Police Chief Terry Collins, Lenawee County Sheriff Larry Richardson and David Munson, president and CEO of the Lenawee County Chamber of Commerce will all be attending as well, Ojeda said.

This will revive the yearly tradition of the migrant fiesta, Ojeda said.

"This is the first one in a long time," Ojeda said. "You're going to see a lot more and a lot bigger."

Ojeda said he is appreciative of all of the sponsors and businesses who have donated food and their services

"It's been easy to set up," he said. "It has just flourished into a fantastic fiesta."